

## Case Study—December 2012

### *Malibu's story*

Malibu is an 8 year old Boxer.

Many years ago she sustained an injury to her left hip, and over the years she began to limp and show a reluctance to play and exercise like she used to. Two years ago some X-rays confirmed severe osteoarthritis in the joint and all manner of medications were used to alleviate pain and settle the inflammation.



However her condition progressed, and due to reduced kidney function we could not increase her doses. Malibu began to show muscle wasting in her left thigh and limped almost all the time...the trouble was she thought she was 8 months old and wanted to play but couldn't.

That was until 5 weeks ago, when she had stem cells injected into her left hip under a short anaesthetic. For the first couple of days she was a bit stiff, but 5 days after treatment she was a different dog.

She no longer limps, her range of movement in the joint has increased, her muscle is not as wasted, but most importantly she can run about free of pain now (without any medications). Her mum said "it's like she is 4 years old again, she comes to get me to get her lead for walks". To look at her today, it's hard to tell which is her bad leg.



X-ray showing severe arthritis in the left hip (on right side of image) and muscle wastage in the left thigh before Stem Cell Therapy.

### *Phoebe's story*

Phoebe is a 13 and 1/2 year old Labrador.

Since she was 2 years old she has suffered with hip dysplasia, a failure of her hip joints to develop properly. After a shoulder injury at 5 years of age, which required arthroscopy to detach her biceps tendon, Phoebe has spent most of her life on and off medication to keep her pain free.



Over the years Phoebe's nerves had degenerated too, and she was quite wobbly and weak in the back legs and could not wag her tail anymore. Recently though, she began to develop stomach ulcers from her anti-inflammatories, and because she is an epileptic too, drugs like Tramadol interfere with her epilepsy medication.

There were few options left to give her a good quality of life, and just like Malibu, she thought she was 13 months old! At her age, and with multiple joints affected, Phoebe was not a good anaesthetic candidate, so a decision was made to put her on a drip to administer her Stem Cells intravenously 5 weeks ago.

After a week she was a new dog too...running up to the back fence to bark at oncoming dogs (something she had not done for 3 years) and she even began to wag her tail again. She has a new lease on life and can go for a 15 minute walk again. Whilst she is still wobbly and weak, she has not been on any pain relief now since her treatment and is continuing to improve each day.